This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

220940Z Mar 02

UNCLASSIFIED   PTQ4929

PAGE 01   HARARE   00752 220955Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00   NP-00   AS-01   A-00   ACQ-00   CIAE-00 DODE-00
      DS-00   EUR-00   UTED-00 VC-00   TEDE-00 INR-00   LAB-01
      VCE-00   NSAE-00 TEST-00 USIE-00 IIP-00   DSCC-00 DRL-02
      NFAT-00 SAS-00   /004W
                  ------------------78FC5A 220955Z /38
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1296
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HARARE 000752

SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND
SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI
FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ZI PREL PHUM
SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT MEDIA ACT CHALLENGED; HARARE

¶1.   UNDER HEADLINE "MEDIA ACT TOTALLY REEKS OF
   INTOLERANCE, XENOPHOBIA," THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE
   DAILY NEWS" DEDICATED ITS MARCH 22 EDITORIAL TO URGING
   JOURNALISTS TO CHALLENGE THE RECENTLY ENACTED ACCESS TO
   INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT, SAYING "THIS
   ACT MUST BE FOUGHT TO THE BITTER END." EXCERPTS:

¶2.   ". . .THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF
   PRIVACY ACT. . .IS REPLETE WITH. . .RESTRICTIONS
   AND BARRIERS. IT REEKS OF THE INTOLERANCE AND
   XENOPHOBIA THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED (THE MUGABE)
   ADMINISTRATION FOR MANY YEARS NOW. . . THAT THE
   ACT WAS EVEN SIGNED INTO LAW AFTER ITS ELOQUENT
   CONDEMNATION LAST YEAR BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
   PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COMMITTEE, EDDISON ZVOBGO, IS
   TESTIMONY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO
   DICTATORSHIP DRESSED UP AS DEMOCRACY. EVERY
   JOURNALIST WORTH THEIR SALT MUST FEEL MORALLY
   OUTRAGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE SO UNCOUTH AS
   TO TRY TO MUZZLE THEM WHILE PROTESTING TO THE
   OUTSIDE WORLD THAT THERE IS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN
   THIS COUNTRY. THIS ACT MUST BE FOUGHT TO THE
   BITTER END. JOURNALISM IN ZIMBABWE MUST CONTINUE
   TO PROMOTE THE FREE FLOW OF ANY AND ALL INFORMATION
   AMONG THE PEOPLE UPON WHICH CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS
   CAN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS."

SULLIVAN

                  UNCLASSIFIED

>